



CAMP DARBY



Issue 7

FINANCE NEWSLETTER

Apr 2002

Bravo Detachment, 208th FB, Camp Darby, Italy

MILITARY PAPER CHECK CONVERSION (MPCC):

The new MPCC system has arrived! MPCC is the process of converting checks into electronic fund transfers (EFTs). **When you present a check, the electronic transfer of funds from your account will occur within 24-48 hours.** Therefore, you should **MAKE SURE** that you have sufficient funds in your account at the time you make the transaction.

When you present a completed, signed check to the cashier, the information from your check is scanned into the MPCC computer and used to generate an electronic transfer of funds from your account. Your check is voided and returned to you.

This is just another example of how finance is taking advantage of advance technologies to better serve you--our valued customers--
information sheet on page 5



PIAZZA DEI MIRACOLI (PISA)

PROUDLY SERVING OUR
MILITARY COMMUNITY

ARMY
AIR FORCE
DRMO
ILO
CARABINIERI
DODDS
DECA-COMM / MED
AAFES
RCO
CHPMM-E
510TH POSTAL

IRS COMBAT ZONE EMAIL ADDRESS:

An e-mail address has been established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide a means for service members in a combat zone to correspond with the IRS on issues relating to filing tax returns and payment of taxes.

However, the IRS will not provide specific information over the internet. Responses pertaining to specific account information will be mailed to the address on record within two business days. Only general answers regarding combat zone issues will be provided over the internet. The email address is combatzone@irs.gov

EURO Rate via email:

To receive the EURO rate each day in your email, just contact our office at DSN 633-7516.

Inside This Issue

- 1 Gov Travel Card termination?
- 2 Family Member SGLI refunds
- 3 Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season
- 4 Use of gas coupons for TDY travel
- 5 Partial Dislocation Allowance (DLA)

Bravo Blaze, Keep the fire burning!!!



Travel News

➤ **GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD TERMINATION?:** You have probably either received an email or heard from a colleague that your government VISA account is about to be terminated--don't panic. There is a lot of information and misinformation being circulated on the fate of the Gov travel card program. Here is a statement released from the US Army Travel Card Program Manager from The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

The bank has notified that it will continue to perform past March 25th 2002 on the Army travel account pending a formal GSA Contracting Officer's decision, IAW the FAR, on their intent to suspend service. The time period stated in the FAR is 60 days, therefore we have a 60 day reprieve. Please pass this to the FINCOM community.

Yes--it is a fact that termination of the current contract is being discussed. Here at your local finance office, we will keep you informed as we receive pertinent information from our official sources. For you frequent TDY travelers, rest assured that we will continue to provide you quality finance support with or without the government travel card.

➤ **USE OF FUEL COUPONS FOR TDY TRAVEL:** We are experiencing a recent trend here in SETAF of individuals on official TDY travel purchasing fuel for their rental vehicles on the economy at economy rates without using fuel coupons. In some emergency situations, it is unavoidable but we are seeing travelers here in Italy making several purchases of economy fuel without even attempting to use fuel coupons and then claiming reimbursement on their travel settlement.

If you perform a TDY in Italy or Germany using a commercial vehicle or rental car, ensure that you maximize the use of fuel coupons. Fuel coupons are available seven days a week for personnel going TDY and in possession of official orders. These coupons are redeemable at all Esso, Agip, and IP gas stations in Italy and Esso and BP stations on the autobahn in Germany.

Remember to plan ahead, purchase fuel coupons for your TDY, and use them whenever possible to prevent waste and save TDY funds.

USEFUL TRAVEL WEBSITES

JFTR/JTR TRAVEL REGS	www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html
E/MSS SITE	https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm
TRAVEL PAYMENT STATUS SITE	https://portal.ssg.gunter.af.mil/tpq2/SSNquery.cfm
PER DIEM RATES	www.dtic.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html
DTOD—OFFICIAL DISTANCES	http://128.190.151.4/
SATO ON-LINE	www.satotravel.com/usareur
GOV TRAVEL CARD WEBSITE	http://www.dfas.mil/money/travel/

➤ **TIPS FOR TDY TRAVELERS :** When submitting your travel settlement claim (DD 1351-2), and your TDY orders (DD1610) only submit four copies. The previous requirement was five copies but the new travel system only requires four. For receipts, you need the original plus two copies.



APRIL



Late Breaking News

RESERVE/NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

If you are a member of the Army Reserves or the National Guard and have deployed as a result of Task Force Sante Fe or another operation, you may have specific questions concerning your pay and entitlements. The 266th FINCOM in Schwetzingen, Germany has a web site that has a wealth of information that may be of interest to you. Some of the topics discussed are:

- Reserve/National Guard benefits
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- Contingency Operations Travel
- Operation Enduring Freedom entitlements.

That web address is:
<https://144.170.213.77/>



CALENDAR

- **Payday** **1**
- **Midmo Cutoff** **5**
- **Midmo NPA distro** **10**
- **USAREUR Tng Hol** **12**
- **Midmonth Payday** **15**
- **EOM cutoff** **18**
- **LES Distro** **26**



FISCAL YEAR 2002 MILITARY PAYDAYS

APR 2002-----01 MAY
 MAY 2002-----31 MAY
 JUN 2002-----01 JUL
 JUL 2002-----01 AUG
 AUG 2002-----30 AUG
 SEP 2002-----01 OCT

Military Report.com
www.militaryreport.com

APR 01, ISSUE

➤ Air Force offers bonus for pharmacists

➤ Avis discount car rates for soldiers

MAR 26, ISSUE

➤ Long term insurance for service members.

MAR 19, ISSUE

➤ Funding cutback affects PCS moves

➤ Thrift Savings Plan reminders



www.defenselink.mil/news

DEFENSE LINK:

The defense link web site contains a wealth of information on both Military News as well as a broad spectrum of finance news and information.

MONEY MATTERS

➤ **THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) OPEN SEASON:** For those of you who missed the first open season or where undecided, now is your chance to enroll in the TSP. Open season begins 15 May through 31 July, 2002. For more information visit www.tsp.gov

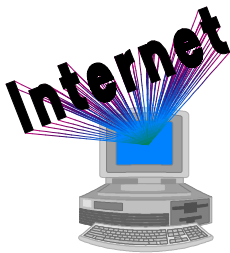
➤ **FAMILY SGLI REFUNDS:** For those service members who chose NOT to receive Family SGLI, most all refunds were paid during February and March of 2002. If did not receive your refund, please contact your local personnel office as soon as possible. Once your PAC informs finance, we will take immediate action to make sure you get your refund. **Please note**, the deadline to cancel your family SGLI and get a refund was 31 December, 2001. If you failed to complete a form 8286A prior to this date, you are not entitled to a refund.

➤ **PARTIAL DISLOCATION ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED:** Effective 01 May, 2002, changes are scheduled to appear in the JFTR change number 185 authorizing Partial DLA of \$500 dollars to service members ordered to vacate Government housing for the convenience of the government. The following new subsection reads: *Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a member ordered to occupy or vacate family housing provided by the United States to permit the privatization or renovation of housing or for any other reason (other than pursuant to a permanent change of station) may be paid a partial dislocation allowance of \$500.*

NOTE 1: Partial DLA is not authorized for those local moves from Government quarters upon separation/retirement.

NOTE 2: The one DLA per fiscal year limitation does NOT apply to partial DLA.

➤ **HOSTILE FIRE PAY FOR ALBANIA:** The Assistant Secretary of Defense (FMP) has signed a memorandum dated March 13, 2002 terminating Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay for Albania, effective 31 March, 2002.



ON THE WEB

DFAS (Main Finane Center)	http://www.dfas.mil/
266 th FINCOM	https://www.266fc.hqusareur.army.mil
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP)	http://www.tsp.gov
BAH RATES	http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/bah.html
OHA & COLA SEARCH	http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/rateinfo.html
E/MSS LES ON-LINE	https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm
FINANCE REGULATIONS	http://131.84.1.34/comptroller/fmr/

Military Paper Check Conversion

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is check conversion? The Military Paper Check Conversion System (MPCC) is a process for converting checks into electronic fund transfers. When you present a completed, signed check to the cashier, the information from your check is scanned into the MPCC computer and used to generate an electronic transfer of funds from your account. Your check is voided and **returned to you**. By presenting your completed and signed check to the cashier you authorize the conversion of your check into an electronic transaction in this manner.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account? The electronic transfer of funds from your account will occur within **24 hours**. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do not have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement? The electronic transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under "other withdrawals" or other transactions. The name of the check cashing location should be indicated on the account statement.

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction? You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

What if the electronic transaction cannot be processed? In rare instances, an electronic funds transfer cannot be processed for technical reasons. In these cases, we will use the stored check information to create a paper version of the original check, which we will present to the financial institution for payment.

Detailed information about this process is available from the Disbursing officer at: 634-7622 Vicenza; 633-7516 Darby.

BOB JONES	Rank, SSN, Work phone number	2048
	Unit name, ETS, Component	DATE _____
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	LEAVE BLANK!!	\$ _____
void		DOLLARS
FIRST NATIONAL BANK		
_____		Your Signature
⑆00 2100 66⑆ 770 ⑆ 994076⑆ 2121		

POINTS OF CONTACT

BRAVO DETACHMENT, 208TH FINANCE BATTALION
UNIT 31401, BOX 50
APO AE 09630

VICENZA, ITALY

COMMANDER

634-7024

DET SGT

634-7044

XO

634-7612

SEPARATIONS

634-8855

DISBURSING

634-7622

IMO

634-8866

MILITARY PAY

634-7455

TRAVEL

634-8027

COM ACCTS

634-8994

ACCOUNTING

634-7251

LN PAY

634-7019

IN/OUT PROC

634-7531

CAMP DARBY, ITALY

FST CHIEF

633-7516

NAPLES, ITALY

FST CHIEF

HQ USAE FINANCE PSC 813 , BOX 156, APO AE 09620

COM 081-721-2186

MADRID, SPAIN

FST CHIEF

JHQSW USANSA, PSC 840, BOX 14, FPO AE 09649

COM 0034-91-512-0564

LARISSA, GREECE

FST CHIEF

US ARMY NATO PSC 844, BOX 2, FPO AE 09844

672-2259

IZMIR, TURKEY

FST CHIEF

USAE, LSE PSC 88, APO AE 09821

675-3691

ANKARA, TURKEY

POC

ODC TURKEY, PSC 90, UNIT 7025, APO AE 09824

672-2259/3280

I Am the Flag of America

*My name is **Old Glory**. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up and see me.*

*I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud. When
I am flown with my fellow banners, My head is a little higher,
My colors a little truer.*

*I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world. I am cherished - I am saluted.
I am loved - I am revered. I am respected - and I am feared.*

*I have fought in every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and
Appamatox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the
beaches of Normandy. Guam, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan, Saigon and Vietnam know me. I was there. I led my
troops, I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, But my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.*

*I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt for I am
invincible. I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country. And when it's done by
those Whom I've served in battle - it hurts. But I shall overcome - for I am strong. I have slipped the bonds of
Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.*

*I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come. When I am torn
into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, When I am flown at half-mast to
honor my soldier,*

When I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter.

I AM PROUD!

Information current as of date of publication.

Newsletter POC: This newsletter is a publication of Bravo Detachment, 208th Finance Battalion. The information contained herein is for the benefit of our Camp Darby community. We hope that you find the information useful and informative. If you have any suggestions or comments, contact SFC Tom Fowler, at DSN 633-7516 or email charles.fowler@darby.setaf.army.mil

MPS

COMMANDER
B DET, 208TH FB
UNIT 31401, BOX 50
APO AE, 09630

Feedback Form

Please take a few minutes to provide suggestions as to how we may improve our service to you.
